

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, please cancel the first line and substitute with the following:

SPECIFICATION

Title of the Invention

“A MAGNETIC STRIP”

Priority Claim

This application claims priority to and the benefit of Australian Patent Application No. AU PS 1795, filed on April 17, 2002.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 1 ~~shows a schematic representation~~ is a perspective view of the a-magnetic tape,
with a facing pair of flexible strips, according to an embodiment of the present invention ~~and~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 2 shows a cross sectional representation of the magnetic tape of Figure 1,
according to an embodiment of the present invention, along with an article to which the magnetic
strip may be attached.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring to Figures 1 and 2, a magnetic strip, according to an embodiment of the present invention, is now described. The Figures show a magnetic strip 10 comprising a flexible material including a plurality of flexible strips 11a and 11b. The interior surfaces 32 of the strips 11a and 11b define a plurality of pockets 12 locating housing a plurality of magnetic members or magnets 14. In this example, the flexible-material is strips 11a and 11b are waterproof and the magnetic strip 10 has a first side 16 with a substantially uniform positive polarity (represented by the “+” sign after 16) and a second side 18 with a substantially uniform negative polarity

(represented by the “-” sign after 18). The magnetic strip 10 can be detachably connected to an article, such as article 24, and the strip 10 can be wrapped around an article 24 in a closed-loop configuration.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The flexible ~~material-12~~ strips 11a and 11b may be provided in the form of a thin polymer of acetate, styrene or PVC as used in packaging materials. Alternatively, the flexible ~~material-12~~ strips 11a and 11b may comprise a fiber reinforced PVC sheet or urethane. This is particularly advantageous for applications requiring durability and weatherproofing. As the thickness of the flexible ~~material-12~~ strips 11a and 11b influences the useful strength of the invention, a compromise between durability and required magnetic strength needs to be found.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A method of producing the magnetic tape according to another embodiment of the invention is now described. Initially two continuous rolls of 50 mm wide ~~stripes~~ strips of fibre reinforced PVC sheeting are provided. The strips are brought together at weld regions or flexible connection areas or regions 13 around each one of the magnets 14 using high frequency welding whereby the magnet 14 is encapsulated in hermetically sealed capsules. The next magnet 14 is then inserted between the two strips 11a and 11b at a distance of approximately 50 mm behind the previous (first) magnet 14 and the process of welding the strips 11a and 11b together around the second individual magnet 14 is repeated. This process is continuously repeated until one of the strips of the fibre reinforced PVC sheeting runs out. If one of the strips runs out, it is joined to a new roll of the same material and the process recommences.

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph ending on line 23 of page 5:

As described above, the magnetic strip may comprise a label which may be used for advertising purposes and may also comprise at least one means 15 for carrying an article, such as a hook.

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph ending on line 26 of page 5:

In any of the embodiments described above, the magnets 14 of magnetic strip 10 can be oriented within the strip 10 such that the polarity of the magnets 14 is substantially uniform relative to the flexible material, that is, relative to strips 11a and 11b. This enables the exterior surfaces 30 of the strip 10 to be connected to one another at a plurality of detachable connection regions 34.

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph ending on line 1 of page 6:

In one embodiment, the pockets 12 may be closed and may be coated or charged with a substance 22 that reduces rusting of magnets 14. Magnets 14 such as NdFeB magnets rust relatively quickly and the substance 22 therefore may reduce deterioration of the magnets 14. The substance 22 may be provided in the form of a coating on the inside of the pockets 12 or, alternatively, the substance 22 may also be provided in the form of a fluid such as a liquid or a gas.